

**STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES**

1300 Hours, January 7, 2009
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, Nebraska 68501

Chairman Dick Christensen called the meeting of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to order at 1300 hours, this date.

I. APPOINTEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Danon, Small Business
Keith Deiml, Education
John Falgione, State Fire Marshal
Keith Hansen, Community Health
Tim Hofbauer, Emergency Management
Jim Schmailzl, Department of Roads
Richard Christensen, SERC Chair, Chemical Industry
Mark Lohnes for Joe Franics, Department of Environmental Quality
Thomas Schwarten, Nebraska State Patrol
Gary Gandara, Labor
Sue Semerena, Department of Health & Human Services, R&L

APPOINTEES ABSENT:

Larry Johnson, Trucking
Dana Miller, SERC Vice Chair Fire Fighters
Don Eisenhower, Agribusiness
Al Berndt, for MG Kadavy, US Military - NEMA

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Tonya Ngotel, NEMA
Terri Blunk, USEPA Region 7
Ted Argintean, Douglas County LEPC
Bob Rose, Clay County LEPC

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

After the welcome and introductions, Chairman Christensen brought the SERC's attention to the agenda for the January 6th meeting. Changes or additions to the agenda were sought. No changes were noted. Ms. Sue Semerena made motion to accept the agenda and the motion was seconded by Mr. Tim Hofbauer. A voice vote was held and the results were unanimous.

III. APPROVAL OF THE 14 OCOTOBER 08 MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Christensen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the 14 October 08 meeting minutes. Mr. Joe Francis clarified comments he had made in the NDEQ report. Tonya Ngotel noted the changes and will correct minutes as noted. Chairman Christensen asked for any other corrections or changes. With no changes noted, Chairman Christensen asked for a motion to accept the minutes with the noted changes. A motion was made by Keith Deiml and seconded by Don Eisenhower. A voice vote was taken and the results were unanimous.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Election of Officers

Chairman Christensen pointed out the need to conduct election of officers for the Commission. A handout was provided to members with a list of eligible persons. Nominations were requested for the position of chair. Dick Christensen was nominated for the position of Chair. A voice vote was taken and the results were unanimous. Nominations were requested for the position of vice-chair. Dana Miller was nominated for the position. A voice vote was taken and the results were unanimous.

B Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest

Bob Rose, Clay County EMA and LEPC, spoke about the history of the severe weather awareness poster contest and the sponsorship with the Weather Service and the Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM). The SERC through the NEMA PIO will be assisting the NAEM with the promotion of the poster contest. Mr. Keith Deiml; LEPC Function subcommittee chair will be coordinating efforts with NEMA, NAEM and the SERC.

C. Review Amended by-laws

The current SERC by-laws were amended by a small committee and reviewed by the commission. Revisions included; a provision for absent members, standing committees, the approval and disapproval of LEPC members, position titles were clarified, and a signature line was added for the SERC Coordinator. Discussion was held on the changes with other changes noted. Tonya Ngotel will make final changes and resubmit them to the SERC with a comment period closing March 24, 2009. A final vote on the revised by-law changes is scheduled for the April 2009 meeting.

D. SERC Committee Review

Tonya Ngotel spoke to the commission about reviewing the SERC subcommittees. There was expressed interest by Keith Hansen to be the chair of the Public Outreach/LEPC Support Committee and by Keith Deiml to be the chair of the LEPC Function Committee. The role of the Public Outreach committee should be to support the activities of the LEPCs across Nebraska through the development of PSAs relating to shelter-in-place activities, supporting the Hazardous Materials Awareness Week and developing commodity flow studies. Steve Danon and Tim Hofbauer expressed interest in assisting with this subcommittee. The LEPC Function Committee will assist Tonya with the update and review of the LEPC Guide, the data base of current LEPC persons and the submission of the LEPC annual reports to the SERC.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. LEPC Membership Application Approvals (Vote):

The next order of business was to approve the membership applications presented before the SERC.

The following individuals were approved as members of their respective LEPC:

Linda Price, Health Services

Kimball County LEPC

Robin Tjosvold, Public Services
Harry Gillway, Sheriff
Barb Andrews, Red Cross
Ray Richards, 911 Communications
Douglas Miller, Sheriff
Wayne Kautz, Public Works
Scott Steeks, Sheriff
Chad Borges, Fire
Sarah Strawn, Rescue

Kimball County LEPC
Kimball County LEPC
Region 22 LEPC
Region 22 LEPC
Garden County LEPC
Morrill County LEPC
Morrill County LEPC
Cheyenne County LEPC
Morrill County LEPC

Tonya Ngotel pointed out that a new LEPC member application was sent around and approved for use. New LEPC members should be using the new form which identifies the area they represent and the date of appointment.

New members were appointed through a voice vote after a nomination by Sue Semerema and a second by Gary Gandara.

B. SERC Membership Committee

i. Status report:

The SERC currently has two positions open, with an emphasis on environmental issues and a county elected official. Please submit names of interested parties to Tonya Ngotel or Peg King in the office of the Governor.

C. Public Outreach Committee

i. LEPC Conference:

- Regional - Save the Date Cards have been sent out for the Regional LEPC conference to be held in Kansas City, August 6-9, 2009 at the Sheraton Sports Complex. SERC members were asked to plan on attending the conference.

D. Other

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tonya spoke of the revision of the 40 CFR, EPCRA. EPA produced a handout that explained the changes in EPCRA which was handed out to the members of the SERC.

VII. REPORT FROM NEMA/FEMA

Tonya Ngotel reported on a new training that is being developed by NEMA and the Center for Biopredardness Education that will focus on decontamination, specifically the mini decon trailers that were purchased in 2004. The first training will be conducted in May at the State Fire School. For more information on the training contact Tonya or Leslie Scofield at the Center.

Al Berndt spoke on behalf of NEMA and shared the signing of two executive orders focusing on communications and interoperability across Nebraska. One order established the Nebraska Wireless Interoperability Network (N-WIN) and the other created the Nebraska Council of Regions (NCOR). The Department of Homeland Security funding continues to focus on communications and a portion of the funds will be used to support these two orders.

FEMA/DHS continue to update and make changes to the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the National Response Framework (NRF). NEMA continues to look at the issue of resource typing and credentialing. FEMA is also suggesting changes to the continuity of operations plan (COOP) and is hosting a training where NEMA will be sending a representative. NEMA is looking at supporting a web based planning system that will allow the planners to interact with the local emergency management officials via the internet. This system will allow the locals to upload plans and eliminate the need for paper plans.

Al spoke of the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) that NEMA underwent in 2008. Nebraska was awarded a conditional accreditation and will receive full accreditation once a few minor changes are made.

There was no report from FEMA.

VIII. REPORT FROM NDEQ

Joe Francis reported that there had been an exception for smaller concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) under EPCRA/CERCLA reporting continuous releases. NDEQ has worked closely the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) and the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association to ensure that the CAFOs will submit the required documentation. Joe also mentioned the LB 528 report that NDEQ annually submits to the Nebraska Legislature. Joe offered to share with the SERC the spill reporting section of the annual report.

Mark Lohnes reported on several LEPCs including the Lancaster County LEPC which met at the Fire Technology Building at Southeast Community College in December. Mark reported that NDEQ was sending out 3,165 letters reminding facilities to submit TIER II information by the deadline of March 1st.

IX. REPORT FROM EPA

Terri Blunk distributed a hand out for the EPA listing information to make sure everyone is aware of upcoming events. In the near future, facilities will be able to update their RMP's via RMP*eSubmit which should be a huge step forward and should make it easier for those who have computer access and those who don't will still be able to do it manually. Nebraska will host several workshops in the beginning months of 2009, with dates and locations presented at the January 2009 SERC meeting.

EPA conducted boom training in the central part of the State as a quarterly training for the Nebraska Hazardous Materials Association. The training was well attended and supported through the hazmat cities. EPA is developing a manual for bio-diesel; once it's in final version it will be distributed.

Doug Ferguson mentioned a training event scheduled for April 14-16, 2009, in North Platte regarding Meth Lab issues, questions regarding this training should be sent Brian Shay, Assistant Chief with the North Platte Hazmat Team.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM / PRESENTATIONS

Christensen discussed an event sponsored, by the Adams County LEPC and Equalizer Midwest, to which all Adams County RMP facilities and most EHS facilities were invited to attend. The event included a free lunch, interaction with the LEPC, Loren Uden of ACEMA and Mark Lohnes of NDEQ and presentations by the local first responders on their capabilities and expectations for facilities in the event of an emergency response to a chemical incident at their location.

XIII. NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Christensen asked if there were any comments for the good of the cause; hearing none he called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Keith Deiml and seconded by Steve Danon.
The next meeting will be April 7, 2009 at 1300 hours at UNMC Sorrell Center.